

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 DRC-01

/159 W

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R 270401Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1509

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0499

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC, SY

SUBJ: ZAYID REPORTEDLY AUTHORIZES ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR SYRIA

REF: KUWAIT 1423

SUMMARY

ZAYID AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF UAEG AND RULING NAHAYYAN
FAMILY REPORTEDLY VERY CONCERNED OVER RENEWAL OF FIGHTING
ON GOLAN FRONT. POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO URGENT APPEAL FOR
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL HELP FROM PRES ASAD, EMB INFORMED ZAYID MAY
HAVE AUTHORIZED PAYMENT OF SIZEABLE NEW STIPEND TO SARG.
BECAUSE OF ZAYID'S STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO SYRIA, HE AND
UAEG HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS OVER PAST
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TWO MONTHS UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT SOR SYRIA IN ITS EFFORTS BRING

ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY. IN LINE WITH RECENT DISCUSSIONS AMB STOLTZFUS HAD WITH UAEG PRES ABOUT SYRIAN SITUATION AND ESPECIALLY AMB'S EFFORTS INDUCE ZAYID TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH ASAD TO PURSUE MODERATE APPROACH, EMB BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR DEPT PERMIT CHARGE PASS TO FOR MIN SUWAIDI SUMMARY USG ANALYSIS OF PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION ON GOLAN FRONT AND PROSPECTS AS WE SEE THEM FOR POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS.

1. EMB INFORMED BY USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT SHAIKH ZAYID AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF UAEG AND RULING AL-NAHAYYAN FAMILY ARE GREATLY DISTURBED OVER RENEWAL OF MAJOR OUT-BREAK OF FIGHTING ON GOLAN FRONT. ACCORDING OUR SOURCES, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT ZAYID WITHIN PAST TWO DAYS HAS AUTHORIZED PAYMENT ADDITIONAL LARGE FINANCIAL STIPEND FOR SARG POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO URGENT PLEA BY PRESIDENT ASAD.

2. ON RECENT CALL, NEW EGYPTIAN AMB KAMAL ESTIMATED THAT TOTAL ABU DHABI ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA SINCE OCT WAR AMOUNTS TO ABOUT DOLS 150-200 MILL. THIS WAS BROKEN DOWN BY KAMAL AS DOLS 100 MILL AT TIME OF WAR, WHICH WAS PAID BY LOAN FLOATED ON LONDON MONEY MARKET, AND DOLS 50-100 MILL EXTRA ASSISTANCE REMITTED SINCE THE WAR. KAMAL STATED SARCASTICALLY THAT SARG LEADERSHIP HAD FOUND THEMSELVES A SUGAR DADDY IN ZAYID, AND ASAD WAS PLAYING THIS RELATIONSHIP FOR EVERYTHING IT WAS WORTH. KNOWING ZAYID'S SUSCEPTIBILITY TO FLATTERY AND ATTENTION, EGYPTIAN AMB SAID SYRIAN PRES WAS REGULARLY TELEPHONING TO GIVE HIM MILITARY STATUS REPORTS TO DRAMATIZE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HELP AND WAS DESPATCHING A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS TO THE UAE, WHO TOGETHER WITH SYRIAN AMB, WERE PUTTING BITE ON THEIR BENEFACTOR.

3.A. COMMENT: AS EMB HAS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, ZAYID IN PARTICULAR AMONG UAE SHAIKHS AND GOVT LEADERS, HAS DEVELOPED SINCERE EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO SYRIA, FAR MORE SO IN OUR VIEW THAN HE HOLDS TOWARD EGYPT, ALTHOUGH HE HAS EXPRESSED GENUINE ADMIRATION FOR SADAT HIMSELF. THIS ATTACHMENT FOR SYRIA TRANSCENDS PRESENT LEADERSHIP AND IS PROBABLY ROOTED

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IN ZAYID'S DEVOTION TO ISLAM AND SENSE OF ARAB HISTORY. SINCE KISSINGER SUCCEEDED IN HIS EFFORTS TO AFFECT MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT ON EGYPTIAN FRONT, ZAYID HAS REPEATEDLY MADE POINT TO US AND TO OTHERS THAT IT EQUALLY IMPORTANT USG CONTINUE MOMENTUM TO BRING ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON SYRIAN FRONT. ALTHOUGH UAEG PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MODERATELY PHRASED, ON ALMOST EVERY APPROPRIATE OCCASION IN PAST TWO MONTHS ZAYID AND HIS MINISTERS HAVE REEMPHASIZED

UAE'S INTENTION TO FULLY SUPPORT SARG IN STRUGGLE TO WREST
ITS OCCUPIED TERRITORY FROM THE ISRAELIS.

B. BECAUSE ZAYID GENERALLY IS DEPENDENT ONLY ON ARAB ACCOUNTS
AND ANALYSIS OF MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN ARAB FORCES
AND THE ISRAELIS, BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR DEPT TO
PERMIT ME TO PASS TO FOR MIN SUWAIDI FOR ZAYID SUMMARY
USG ANALYSIS OF PRESENT SITUATION ON GOLAN FRONT AND
PROSPECTS AS WE SEE THEM, PRIOR TO SEC'S FORTHCOMING
TRIP FOR DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND
SYRIANS. AS DEPT WILL RECALL (REFTEL) AMB STOLTZFUS ON HIS RECENT
VISIT MADE STRONG PITCH TO ZAYID TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH
ASAD TO PURSUE PEACEFUL SOLUTION. PUTTING ZAYID IN PICTURE
AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS MIGHT BE HELPFUL
IN THIS REGARD.
GRIFFIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABUDH00499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740100-0758
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974049/aaaaahcm.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KUWAIT 1423
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAYID REPORTEDLY AUTHORIZES ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SYRIA
TAGS: PFOR, TC, SY, (ZAYID, IBN SULTAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005